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everybody. There is also a demand that the public schools attempt to prepare children for the tasks they may reasonably expect to do, and not to train all of them for an ideal only a few can attain. The adjustment of the school system to new ideas will require executive ability of the highest order, and the people of the State are entitled to look for it in the man who eventually is named as Commissioner of Education.

There is no reason why the Regents should not take all the time they need to find out the right man. A temporary vacancy in the office will not do the State anything like as much harm as would be caused by the selection of the wrong man for the work. At least 1,800,000 pupils are enrolled in the schools of New York State, and in their hands will soon be the welfare of the State. It is worth while to go to the greatest pains to get the right man to supervise their training.

Bushel Baying Power.

Mary's little lamb subsisted on unearned income, and that is what many of the denizens of the farm will have to do so long as the present distaste for the denizens of the farm and what we may call city prices continues. ALMA B. JOHNSON, president of the Pennsylvania Chamber of Commerce, believes the worst of the readjustment of business is over and advises everyone to buy now and start business going once more instead of waiting for lower prices.

But if the farmer were to buy from the city at present prices, paying the city at his farm prices, the agricultural population would soon find that its buying power had dissipated into thin air.

The farmer's buying power is measured in bushels rather than in dollars. In 1919 the farmer produced wheat, corn, oats, potatoes, cotton and other crops aggregating in value \$14,087,965,000. In 1920 the aggregate value was \$9,148,419,000. These were the values in dollars. But the shrinkage in 1920 values was not due to smaller crops. It was due to lower prices. Here is the record of the principal yields (000,000 omitted):

Corn, bushels.....	2,917	3,232
Wheat, bushels.....	3,934	2,189
Oats, bushels.....	1,248	1,624
Cotton, bales.....	11.9	12.9

An increase in production of bushels and bales resulted in a decreased buying power for those bushels and bales. The law of supply and demand caused a low price for each bushel of grain or bale of cotton, but the aggregate value of the larger crops might have given the farmer his usual buying power. That is, it might have been that the farmer could buy a hat for six bushels. The same hat to-day costs ten bushels of 70 cent corn. A year ago the farmer could buy two suits and an overcoat with a 500 pound bale of 35 cent cotton. He can buy about one suit now, with a little change left over for carfare.

That's what's the matter with the farmer's buying power. Seventy per cent of Nebraska's wheat crop of 60,000,000 bushels is still on the farms. Eighty per cent of North Dakota's 55,000,000 bushels is on the farms. Kansas farmers are burning their corn for fuel and are holding 50,000,000 bushels of wheat because they will not sell it at a loss. Cotton is stored on the plantations by the millions of bales. Tobacco is held back by the millions of pounds.

But that is only one side of the story. In the industrial centers mills have been closing down and throwing hundreds of thousands of city workers out of employment. The textile industry has been on half time, the steel industry has been operating at about two-thirds capacity. At high production costs—chiefly labor—their products cannot exchange.

The farmer will buy mill and factory goods—city goods—with his country goods when the exchange values of the two are brought closer together, and that can come only when the mill and factory and city worker accepts lower wages to permit lower mill and city prices. Then the farmer can buy if he receives sufficient credit to enable him to market his products.

M. Deschanel's Ambition.

Ex-President DESCHANEL of France, who was obliged by poor health to resign from his great office last fall, has so far recovered that he is once more seeking to enter public life, this time as a Senator from Eure et Loire. The electorate is said to be favorably disposed toward him, and it is expected that he will be successful.

The presence of a former Chief Executive of the State in the law making body is not so common an incident as to pass unnoticed, although the course DESCHANEL is following has not a few precedents here and abroad. JOHN QUINCY ADAMS became a member of the House of Representatives after his term as President, and in his distinguished service in that body earned the title "The Old Man Eloquent." When ANDREW JOHNSON left the White House he immediately began a campaign for vindication, appealing to his constituents at home for public office as a mark of their continued confidence. He had a hard row to hoe, but in 1875 he was elected to the Senate.

It is the opinion of many students

of government that the nation should provide permanent membership in Congress for former Presidents, in order that their fellow countrymen might have the advantage in the councils of the state of their wisdom gained from experience. Official place, however, is not necessary for this. Colonel ROOSEVELT found no difficulty in getting the ear of the people after he left the President's chair, and any other ex-President who, like him, has a real message will always be heard when he speaks.

Our Immigration Laws.

This newspaper has frequently pointed out in the discussion of immigration problems that the United States has on its statute books to-day a law regulating the landing here of aliens which in most of its provisions is excellent. It contains an illogical and mischievous section barring illiterates from the country. Aside from this it is a law as good as we may reasonably hope to get.

Under this immigration law practically all individuals who are likely to prove undesirable residents of the country can be kept out of it. The mentally and physically weak, enemies of the Government, criminals, men and women of depraved life, the door can be shut in the face of every one of them. If through carelessness any of those who belong in the proscribed classifications do gain admittance they can be deported.

The fact that this law is in force seems to have been forgotten or ignored by those who have been trying to frighten us with talk of an uncounted horde of foreigners waiting to descend on America, overwhelm its population and destroy its institutions. Even officers of the Government in the immigration service itself have spoken as if there were no barrier of law between us and an invading host of criminals, beggars and disease stricken men and women.

Fortunately these alarming outgivings have not been accepted at their face value by everybody. Among organizations which instead of trembling with fright have looked into the facts about immigration is the Merchants Association of New York City, and the conclusions reached by its special committee after reading the statutes are set forth thus in a report just issued:

"Your committee believes that these measures are sound and recommends that emphasis at this time be placed not on the addition of further restrictive measures but rather on the efficient administration of those already on the statute books."

In this sense the committee does more than give its endorsement to the act regulating immigration; it points out the real weakness of the Government in dealing with immigrants. This lies in the failure to enforce the law consistently, impartially and energetically. If the law were applied rigidly at all ports of entry, if foreigners who contemplate coming here were told of its requirements and made to understand that those requirements would be vigorously upheld, there would be fewer undesirable and less foolish talk about them in the country.

Highway Transport.

In an address before the Institute of Transport at a recent meeting in London Lord MONTAGU of BEAULIEU, a British authority on inland transportation, said that if road traffic continued to increase at the present rate the width of the most used main roads would have to be doubled to take at least four lanes of travel and that other trunk roads reserved for fast new transportation should be built between populous centers from which radiated continual fast and heavy traffic. He continued:

"Speed limits, as we know them to-day, will, of course, be abolished before long, at any rate on the open road, and when special roads for motor traffic are made, a development which I think is certain to come, the average speeds of passenger carrying motors will be equal to, if not in excess of, average railway passenger speeds to-day."

What Lord MONTAGU attempted in his address was to show the conditions which the rapidly increasing use of motor vehicles and the heavy demand for improved transportation facilities will bring in a by no means very remote future. For eighty years the railways have been the most important factor in inland traffic, but he does not see that this stage in the development of transportation is necessarily a permanent condition of affairs. Before the railways inland traffic was carried on entirely by means of roads, and the situation, as he now sees it, is that the country may be compelled once more for a very large proportion of its inland traffic to go back to the roads.

These roads of the future must be adequate to the new traffic. They must be thoroughfares straight and wide and built of some permanent or semi-permanent material such as glass or concrete that will stand up under the continual heavy traffic, and so well built that the annual upkeep, the most important expense to-day, will be reduced to a negligible figure. He sees a considerable change in motor vehicles. Lorries with tires of a size far larger than now exist will be employed for carrying small parcels, mails and perishable produce. Motor vehicles will be constructed with more than four wheels and trailers will come more and more into use, partly as a result of the very high taxes based on the power developed by the engine of the vehicle and

partly to save expensive labor. He does not take a pessimistic view of the question of fuel supply, but believes that gas carried in metal cylinders or improved steam engines will furnish power even if the supply of petroleum becomes greatly reduced.

He believes, too, that many of the railways will find it to their advantage to convert some of their short roads into toll motor roads. The future of the railways, he says, seems to lie "in really fast trains, averaging over fifty miles an hour, heavy traffic in bulk, such as coal and iron, and in long night journeys by passenger trains."

The problems of transportation which Lord MONTAGU cites as existing in Great Britain are similar to those in the large cities and populous districts in America, and some of the solutions which he suggests might in a measure find application in this country. But the question of railroad traffic is naturally different in America from what it is in Great Britain. Distances in the latter country are much shorter than in the United States and the short hauls in which the motor car is employed to the greatest advantage can be made profitably and successfully. In fact, motor transport of goods between New York and nearby cities has recently increased to such an extent that it is in such a state of development that it might in part realize Lord MONTAGU's vision of the future.

The idea which Lord MONTAGU puts foremost is that good roads are a great asset of a country, and that the means of transportation which they furnish are very important factors in a nation's strength. "The nation that neglects the development of its transport in the future," he says, "will cease to exist as a power in the world." RUDYARD KIPING expressed the same thought when, in defining civilization in its broadest and truest sense, he said: "Transportation is civilization."

One Man Who Held a Grudge.

Private SAMUEL BERMAN, serving at Camp Lee, Virginia, in the days when khaki was the wear for all good men, had as his company commander Captain B. R. FINK, with whom he did not get on well. Private BERMAN meditated revenge.

The war over, Private BERMAN and Captain FINK shed their uniforms, but BERMAN nursed his scheme of vengeance. FINK weighed 210 pounds, BERMAN 190. So BERMAN, having learned in the army what systematic exercise will do for a man, set to work to overcome this handicap of twenty pounds. And on New Year's Day BERMAN met FINK in Norfolk, Virginia, according to our neighbor the *Tribune*, and gave him a scientific beating. The police judge fined the victorious ex-private \$10, which BERMAN said was a small price to pay for his pleasure.

BERMAN is not one of those who forget. Many a schoolboy has sworn a mighty oath to grow up and beat the principal. Few of them have sufficient strength of character to live up to this resolve. Men are not unlike boys in such things. Mighty few of them are able to hold a grudge for two weeks, let alone two years. To nurse all our grievances would take too much time. The blaze of indignation started by an impudent clerk, by a clumsy fellow traveler in the subway, even by a deliberate insult, may result in high words or an immediate blow, but a day later it is forgotten. This is a fortunate thing. If we did not erase from our minds the resentment and the anger which are aroused within us by the accidents of every day life there would not be a sweet disposition left in the world.

We admire ex-Private BERMAN's pertinacity, and if he is as faithful in all things as he has been in his intention to thump ex-Captain FINK he will become a great man.

Said a distributor of films: "When a director (of moving picture plays) is working on his own capital he's less likely to be temperamental." This, clearly lettered on bronze, would make an admirable adornment, solidly set, conspicuously placed, on the walls of the chambers of Congress.

One hundred and twenty million pounds of fish were unloaded on Boston wharves in 1920. There is nothing transcendental about the winsome quality in Boston's favorite catch.

Archaeologists have discovered a forty-five story apartment house in the Southwest desert. It is tenanted, but whether because of high rents or low temperature in the living rooms is yet to be determined.

A billion gallons a day of water intended for the use of New York City now run to waste over the Croton Lake dam. Few can have realized that it took so much liquid to supply the innocent part of highfalls.

The Irishman of Italy.

The Irishman of Italy is G. D'Annunzio! Though small and weak and brittle, he could surely make things go. A scrap to him was meat and drink, and when the war was done, and fighting mostly on the blink, He fought his mother's son!

Upon the Adriatic's shore Italia bloomed, a rose, D'Annunzio was feeling sore, And so a thorn he chose, Flame was the sorest spot, The Big Three said, "Tis gone, D'Annunzio balled up the plot, And switched the spotlight on,

Then Gabriele puffed out his chest And gave his horn a toot, Flame danced, and for the rest, It didn't give a hoot, Now falls the drama's final shade—Wart just or tragedy?

The warrior must sheathe his blade And—turn to poetry! MAURICE MORRE.

Arms for Good Citizens.

Qualifying Tests Proposed in Place of the Sullivan Law.

TO THE NEW YORK HERALD: Some appropriate action should be taken by the Legislature which would to at least change the effect of the Sullivan law. But not every person can properly use small arms.

Why not allow all citizens who have demonstrated their ability to use a pistol or revolver to have and possess one, provided that each might not be used except for the purpose of self-defense, convicted of a crime? It is very doubtful that gunmen would avail themselves of the opportunity of qualifying before the authorized officers. READER, New York, January 1.

Eggs an Example.

Supply and Price in the East Depend on Western Grain Prices.

TO THE NEW YORK HERALD: With wheat selling on the great exchanges of the world at say, \$1.65 a bushel it is folly for a farmer to borrow money to hold his wheat for a \$3 market.

We dairy farmers in the East need the bran and middlings resulting from the manufacture of flour to feed our stock; we need the corn and corn products, the oats, both whole and ground, by the million bushels for the same purpose.

The prosperity of one part of the country reflects in all parts. Were not grain to supply the demand at a price obtainable on a free and open market—and no other price can be had for any length of time—they could pay their bills without the aid of their banks. And nature has been very generous in the last season to all of us, and every one of those grain growers has harvested more grain than in his wildest flights of imagination he dared to expect. This means a lower actual cost of production.

The Eastern stock feeder can produce milk at a lower cost; beef and pork, butter and cheese, eggs and poultry, all food products that depend on grain to be developed, can be placed in the hands of the consumer at a more attractive price if the price of grain is lower.

Take as an example eggs, at present the highest priced article of food on the market. The poultryman feeds a bushel of feed a day; owing to the high price and scarcity of obtaining the most approved grains he is able to collect but one dozen eggs a day, for which he receives \$1. With a liberal supply and a fair price he feeds lavishly of the most approved foods and collects four dozen eggs a day, for which he receives, say, 75 cents a dozen.

Do not both the hen man and the consumer profit? GEORGE E. HOWELL, HOWELL, JANUARY 1.

A Flat Tax on Cash.

Substitute Proposed for Taxes on Sales or Excess Profits.

TO THE NEW YORK HERALD: A cumulative sales tax to yield \$1,500,000,000 would involve a mass of complications, its computation as does the excess profits tax and cost as much to collect. Representative Mott has introduced a measure which would place the entire burden of taxation on consumers. Of these approximately 90 per cent are wage, salary and fee earners, already distressed to live within their incomes, not to mention those who will be deprived of their incomes during business adjustment.

That business should be relieved from taxes on book profits based on inventories of constantly changing values there can be no denial. That it should be relieved of all taxation is more than it would expect. As in a year of declining inventory values cash reserves are depleted to a point below tax requirements under existing laws, and as no business can be profitable that must borrow money for such obligations, present methods of taxation, as applied to business, are fundamentally wrong.

The reasonable man who deals in actual receipts from sales and other sources, less actual payments for merchandise, fixed charges and necessary expenses; in short, a flat tax on cash, not book profits. Such taxation would admit of no exemption on invested capital or deductions for depreciation, depletion and losses, speculative or otherwise, as these are properly charges against surplus or capital, not income. The tax suggested could be readily computed, would require no complicated tax forms and therefore no army of clerks to audit them. The opportunity for reducing government expenditures is an important consideration.

F. W. RICHARDSON, C. F. A. NEW YORK, JANUARY 1.

Palm Beach's Cocoanuts.

Story of a Shipwreck and a Battle With Sharks and Alligators.

TO THE NEW YORK HERALD: Where did George N. Churchill obtain the stuff contained in his letter about Palm Beach's cocoanut trees? Anyway, he is all wrong.

I lived on and near the Indian River from 1884 to 1906, and heard the true account hundreds of times of how the cocoanut trees were planted.

Two men, Harley Hammond, who still lives on the strip of land between Lake Worth and the ocean, and Merritt Robinson, who lives on Merritt Island on the Indian River, were wrecked in the surf off Palm Beach in a schooner loaded with cocoanuts. They were attacked by a school of sharks and fought them with cocoanuts—they were all finally washed ashore, except the fish. But their troubles had only then begun, for they had to use the same cocoanuts to fight the alligators.

That's the true story of Palm Beach's cocoanuts. Mr. Churchill notwithstanding. H. M. P.

New York, January 1.

Garroting Stopped by the Lash.

TO THE NEW YORK HERALD: I can confirm "H. F. P." as to the effect of the lash in cases of violence.

I was in London at the time garroting came in the later '70s. I am sure of my date as my father was a victim of the garroters.

The law is still on the books, but is only used in cases of extreme violence and occasionally on a wife beater. NEW YORK, JANUARY 1. V. R.

Crimean Veterans.

Four Crimean veterans whose ages totaled 321 years attended the funeral at Portsmouth of William West, 83, who served in the navy in the Crimean war.

Albert Coates Again Directs Symphony Daily Calendar

Gives Intensely Interesting Concert With Rachmaninov, Russian Pianist Composer, as the Soloist.

Albert Coates directed again at the concert of the Symphony Society in Aeolian Hall yesterday afternoon. The numbers on the programme were the first symphony of Brahms, Tchaikovsky's B flat piano concerto and Scriabin's "Poeme de l'Extase." The pianist was the Russian, Alexander Rachmaninov. The audience was in certain respects noteworthy, since it contained almost every conductor, pianist, violinist and manager of importance in New York.

Mr. Coates had his own reading of the Brahms symphony, but it was one which could not have aroused potent antagonism in the breast of any except the Brahms and the gospel. Mr. Coates began the reprise of the first movement at a very rapid tempo, but a subsequent slackening of the pace disclosed an artistic purpose. He also had the third movement, which was unusually fast and here there was more room for question. In fact the movement did not sound well.

But the other three, and particularly the last, were admirably done. Mr. Coates showed a fine feeling for the character of Brahms's polyphony. He gave full but not too much value to the inner voices and he laid stress on the harmonic transitions which are sometimes treated lightly. The reading of the symphony as a whole was warm, even enthusiastic, yet clear and symmetrical in plan. It published eloquently the content of the music. Did not Beethoven call it the tenth symphony? No; it is the first, the first of a new era in symphonic composition, the gateway to a new world of expression, a creation of a revolution and a precious gift of immortal genius.

It was evident that Mr. Coates cherished a deep affection for the art of Scriabin. His interpretation of the "Poeme de l'Extase" aroused doubts as to whether we ever before had heard of a symphony so idealistic and intangible music. One may say without hesitation that it would not have been written if Scriabin and Beethoven had not been written first. But that is true of so much later music. Scriabin learned of expression from Wagner, but he adapted it to his own ends. His poem is assuredly characteristic, and it is music of the modern type, blazing with color effects, reeking with impressionism, but poetic in mood and style. Mr. Coates conducted it with his orchestra played it magnificently.

Less need be said about the performance of the concerto, which is an old and well beloved friend. Mr. Rachmaninov showed a fine feeling for the music of his famous countryman. His technique was not always impeccable, but he played like an artist of wide sympathies and sincere emotion. The accompaniment was good, but Mr. Coates, who knew the concerto well and directed with confidence and authority. The entire concert was intensely interesting and without doubt when Mr. Coates returns to London he will bring him memories of a notable afternoon.

Spanish Violinist Pleases.

The Spanish violinist, Joaquin Mainer, who gave his first recital here earlier in the season, appeared as the soloist at the Philharmonic Society's concert at Carnegie Hall yesterday. Pablo Casals.

The Pilgrim Postage Stamp.

I met the Mayflower sailing Upon a penny sea, The doughty vessel halting, I asked what news might be.

"Affairs are going badly," The woful Pilgrim cried, "And we are thinking sadly, We never should have tried."

"No longer are we chippers, And heavy are our fears; With Burleson for skipper, We may not land for years."

McLARDENBURGH WILSON.

Wild Life Is Threatened.

A New Jersey Plea for Protection for Birds and Animals.

TO THE NEW YORK HERALD: One of the worst features of the present bird situation is that conservationists are unable to agree among themselves. Having written a splendid letter on bird protection to your paper Archibald C. Weeks proceeds to damn some birds because they eat, and to make a treaty of alliance with cats—the birds' worst enemy—and to abolish public game farms.

Writers in *American Forestry*, the magazine of the American Conservation Society, have told us repeatedly and emphatically that the insect devouring habit of song birds is the only protection that exists for foliage and growing crops, but Mr. Weeks prefers to have the song bird out of the crop business entirely. Most conservationists have long opposed it as a part of the B. C. of their business to protect the birds from cats, whose pet hobby is to get busy in the early daylight hours of summer mornings and destroy nests of young birds. Squirrels and rabbits are destructive, no doubt, but they are surely deserving of some consideration.

As for the public game farm, I suppose the bird sanctuaries would come under that head. The bird sanctuaries are the creations of the American Conservation Society and are scattered throughout the continent, meant to overflow and furnish good, honest sport in their adjacent territory. They establish a perpetual closed season over a limited